

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

MONEY sent us, otherwise than by registered letter, postal money order or draft on New York, will be at the risk of the sender.

AGENTS.—We employ no agents. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has many volunteer contributors, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who confide their subscriptions to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent only on receipt of the subscription price.

ADDRESSES.—If changed, as often as desired, send each subscriber in every case give the old as well as new address. In renewing subscriptions be careful to send us the label on the last paper received, and specify any corrections or changes they desire made in name or address.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to Grand Army, Sons of Veterans, Pension, Military, Agricultural, Industrial and Household matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on one side of the paper only. We do not return communications by request to that effect and the necessary postage, and under no circumstances guarantee their publication at any special rate.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

An erroneous report has gone abroad that THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is to be discontinued. This was a great shock to the hundreds of thousands throughout the country who read the paper weekly, who love and honor it, and to whom it has become almost a household necessity. Nothing of the kind has been contemplated. Arrangements are now being considered by which the paper will be continued exactly as heretofore, under virtually the same men and management as for the past 12 years. It is expected that it will be improved and have a stronger life and more vigorous usefulness than ever. All its readers are confidently assured that it will neither be discontinued nor let down a particle from its present high standard.

THE SERVICE PENSION.

So many comrades raise the bugaboo that the Service Pension puts the long and the short service men on a level. To this it is sufficient to answer:

1. These men have been kept on a level since the war by the Pension Bureau, so that this is no new condition. There are more than 200,000 of them who have been kept on a level for many years by the denial of any pension at all. It did not matter whether they served three months or three years, their claims were not allowed. Was not that sufficiently leveling? Now let us change it by giving these long-waiting, much-deserving men at once something to live on. They can certainly stand on a level of \$8 a month, after so many years of leveling upon nothing.

2. The Government has always given a Service Pension of \$8 a month for much less service than 90 days. Therefore, the man who served three months during the war of the rebellion has earned this minimum better than did his predecessors who served a less time in the Revolution, the War of 1812, Indian Wars, and the Mexican War. Why should we ask him to take less than they received? His services certainly were worth as much as theirs. The country is now better able to pay this pension than it ever was before.

3. After we have gotten the Service Pension through will be the best time to amend it so as to make it as equitable as we desire. Once get it on the statute books and let it begin its beneficent operation, and we can then discuss ways of improving it at our leisure. Meanwhile the veterans will have something to live on while we are talking and discussing. But if we wait now to fix up a bill which will exactly suit every one, all these poor comrades will be in their penniless graves long before we have arrived at an agreement.

It seems to us that this reasoning is so clear that no one can dissent from it.

Let us all, with one accord, unite on a straight Service Pension Bill of \$8 a month. Let us get this thing, and immediately give the comrades something to support them while we are disputing among ourselves as to what further amendment it needs.

WE have reason to believe that Maj. McKinley has selected his old comrade of the 23d Ohio, Col. Harrison Gray Otis, of Los Angeles, Cal., for a place in the Cabinet, instead of Judge McKenna. Judge McKenna is understood not to want the place, being very well satisfied with his present one on the Circuit Bench, which is entirely to his taste and a life position. Col. Otis will make a splendid representative of the Pacific Coast. He is a full-blooded, brainy man, overflowing with energy and with a mind of wide range. He was mustered into the 12th Ohio as a private June 25, 1861, and a few months later was promoted to Sergeant. He received a commission as Second Lieutenant for good conduct at South Mountain, and when the veterans and recruits of his regiment were consolidated with the 23d Ohio, July 11, 1864, he became Captain of Co. H, of that regiment, and was mustered out as such at the close of the war. He was wounded at Winchester, July 24, 1864, and distinguished himself while in West Virginia in hunting down and destroying the bands of guerrillas which infested the State. He is an enthusiastic G.A.R. man, and all comrades will rejoice at his appointment.

Gov. MATTHEWS, of Indiana, advocates compulsory education. The Governor would seem to be on the wrong side of the political fence for that sort of thing, which has usually come from the Republican side, and cost them the loss of Illinois and Wisconsin. All the same, we are with the Governor on that issue.

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Three desperate Tennessee ringsters resorting to unheard-of devices to stand off an investigation into their villainy. The latest is the passage of a bill requiring a bond in the sum of \$25,000 from Tillman, the contesting candidate for Governor, to be paid in case the Legislature shall decide his accusations of fraud to be frivolous and malicious. This is a most offensive piece of bluff. The court before which the case is to be tried—the Legislature—virtually says in advance that the complainant has no case, and that it will fine him \$25,000 if he persists in pushing it to an issue. The like has never been heard of before in American politics. It is amazing what the people of Tennessee will stand from the gang which has already done such infinite injury to the State. It is understood that the Republicans will "see" the bluff by at once filing the necessary bond. The best lawyers hold that the act is utterly unconstitutional, and that the bond will be uncollectable.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs has agreed to a favorable report on the House bill authorizing officers who served during the war of the rebellion in the Regular Army to bear the title and on occasions of ceremony wear the uniform of their highest rank.

The two largest Pension Agencies are those at Topeka and Columbus, which have on their rolls:

Topeka	104,559
Columbus	104,034
The two smallest are:	
Augusta	19,715
Concord	19,811

ONLY six weeks more of "Grover and clover." We shall have a different kind of forage then.

FRANCE also wants to conclude an arbitration with us. It is not clear why. A collision with her is exceedingly impossible. She has nothing on this continent but French Guiana, and wisely took the hint at the time of the Venezuelan trouble to refrain from an attempt to extend its boundaries at the expense of Brazil.

If the people of South Dakota were alive to their true interests there would be no doubt of the unanimous election of Maj. John A. Pickler as Senator. He would be a Senator who would do the young State substantial good in the Upper House, and be worth a chamber full of such men as Senators Pettigrew and Kyle. If either of these have accomplished anything for South Dakota the fact has escaped our notice. Pettigrew is an agile fellow in looking out for himself, and nothing else, while it is hard to say just what Kyle amounts to in any direction. On the other hand, Pickler is a positive quantity—a personal force, and that force is never failed to be executed for South Dakota at every opportunity. He is thinking much more of South Dakota's interests than of his own, and wherever he is South Dakota comes to the front. With him in the Senate the country would hear as much of South Dakota as it used to of Kansas when John J. Ingalls and Preston B. Plumb were Senators.

Last year the pension-roll lost by death 29,393. This is the greatest mortality in the history of the Pension Bureau. It is an alarming and suggestive fact, for it shows with mournful clearness that we must lose no time in bringing about measures of relief for the veterans yet living. They cannot wait for us to discuss endlessly the precise terms of any proposed legislation. If we are going to do anything for them we must do it at once. We must unite on the measure that seems to promise the most to the greatest number. That is the Service Pension Bill.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

The signing of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain is practically a union of the English-speaking people, and the triumph of the American contention of the Monroe doctrine. If you do not know what this doctrine is, send 5 cents for No. 6, NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY, entitled "President Monroe and His Doctrine."

THE VERMONT BRIGADE

IN THE WILDERNESS.

By Brevet Maj.-Gen. L. A. Grant,

Formerly Assistant Secretary of War.

TO BEGIN IN ISSUE OF JAN. 28.

There never was a better brigade than the Vermont Brigade, of Gen. Grant won great fame as its commander. He tells the story of its terrific fighting in the battle of the Wilderness very clearly and vividly.

TO CLIENTS OF THE LATE GEORGE E. LEMON.

An important announcement is made elsewhere to the pension clients of the late Geo. E. Lemon. The executors will continue the pension claim business as usual, and all applicants can rely upon their interests being as well cared for as formerly. Comrade Alva S. Taber, who has been placed in charge, was for many years last past Capt. Lemon's right-hand man, and had entire charge of his pension business. He is thoroughly versed in all pension matters, and is upright and earnest. The claimant's interests could not be in better hands.

THE SONS OF VETERANS.

The lists of Sons of Veterans who do not belong to the Order, which have been sent to this office in answer to our requests, have been referred to the Colonels commanding the Divisions where these sons reside, with a view to steps being taken to organize Camps. In appreciation of our services we have received letters of acknowledgment, from which we make the following extracts:

Col. Wm. G. Dustin, commanding Illinois Division—

I am thankful to you for sending me data, which may lead to the organization of a S. of V. Camp. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is doing a grand work for the Order, and should be well patronized.

Wm. D. Orr, Adjutant, Division of Pennsylvania—

We cannot too highly appreciate your kind interest and information furnished us. Thank you.

Col. Manly Wrea, commanding Division of Missouri—

I beg you to accept the thanks of these Headquarters for your kindness in forwarding us list of names of persons eligible to membership. It is an assistance that we greatly appreciate.

DISCUSSING THE SILVER QUESTION.

If any of our readers feel that the Silver question is not definitely settled, and wish to continue the discussion, we shall be glad to do so. But we give them due notice that we are not going to take the trouble to notice any mere Populist harrangues, nor the too-frequent string of epithets of "gold-bug," "liar," "tool of Wall street," "hireling of the money-power," "slave of England," and similar rot. There is absolutely no sense in such jabbering, and the man who can do nothing but scrawl it may as well save his time and postage. There is no more reason why the discussion of economic facts should be accompanied by ill-temper and abuse than the discussion of a problem in arithmetic. Either economic facts are facts or they are not. If they are facts it can be demonstrated by reason and the experience of the world.

Let anyone who really wants to get at the truth present us any question that he wishes in a simple, compact form, and we will be glad to give him all the light that we have upon it. Since we have plenty of time now, it will be better if he makes but one statement or propounds but a single question at a time. In this way the whole ground can be gone over carefully and fully and the exact truth arrived at.

No. 4, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

LIBRARY, tells you of the total amount paid for pensions from 1861 to June 30, 1895, and the amount paid to the bondholders for the same period. It also contains other valuable information upon the subject of pensions, and gives figures and tables compiled from official sources that you want to know. The title of the booklet is "Pension Statistics," and sells for 5 cents per copy.

Let every G.A.R. Post resolve that this year it will help start a Sons of Veterans Camp, if there is none in its jurisdiction, or if there is one, to give it sympathy and encouragement on every occasion.

We can have no better friends than our own sons.

The Cubans have blown up a Spanish gunboat, and are making themselves particularly disturbing all over the island. Weyler is a worse failure than Campos, and the revolution is nearer success every day.

LIFE OF GEN. SHERIDAN.

No. 12 of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY is now out. It is a Life of Gen. Phil H. Sheridan, by John McElroy. It is a handsome 32-page booklet, containing in compact, concise form all the salient facts in Gen. Sheridan's wonderful career. It is illustrated by pictures of Sheridan as a Brevet Second Lieutenant and as a General, a copy of Taylor's picture of Gen. Sheridan at Dinwiddie Courthouse, the war horse "Rienzi," Sheridan's tomb at Arlington, etc. Price five cents. Six copies for 25 cents.

A GREAT WATER WAY SCHEME.

The Commission on a Deep Water way from the Lakes to the Ocean, appointed under the authority of the last Congress, has made an important report which the President has made the subject of a special message. The report strongly favors the immediate beginning of the work on such a water way, all to be in American territory, and which will compete with the Canadian scheme for a 14 feet channel all in Canadian territory. The route that the Commission recommends is as follows:

That starting from the heads of Lakes Michigan and Superior the most eligible route is through the several Great Lakes and their intermediate channels, and the proposed Niagara ship-canal (Tonawanda to Olean) to Lake Ontario, and thence to the Canadian seaboard may be reached from Lake Ontario by the way of the St. Lawrence River, and the American seaboard may be reached from Lake Ontario by way of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain and Hudson River, or by way of the Oswego-Ontario-Mohawk Valley and the Hudson River.

That the alternative routes from Lakes Ontario to the Hudson River require complete surveys and a full development of economic considerations to determine their relative advantage.

NAMES OF SONS OF VETERANS.

We want the name, postoffice address and occupation of every young man in the United States who is eligible to membership in the Sons of Veterans. Let everybody interest himself in sending these to us.

We have printed a second and revised edition of "The Story of Cuba," No. 9 of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY. The chronology of the struggle is brought down to date.

COMRADE BRITTON FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: A good many readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE have noted with satisfaction your reference to Comrade Wiley Britton, of Kansas City, Kan., for Deputy Commissioner of Pensions. Now, I desire to offer a few words in behalf of Comrade Britton for that position.

We served in the same regiment (the 6th Kan. Cav.) from 1861 to 1865. There are perhaps few men who have suffered more for their principles than Comrade Britton and his family. His father lived at Neosho, in southeastern Missouri, when the war came, and was one of 10 Republicans in the town, and was known as an abolitionist, and who went to the polls in a body in November, 1860, and voted for Abraham Lincoln for President. In July, 1861, when Gen. Sigel was sent into southern Missouri the elder Mr. Britton, with several members of his family, drove out in his carriage, and the General about 10 miles from Neosho, and marched with him at the head of the column into town. The next day Sigel marched to Carthage to engage the rebel forces under Gen. Jackson and a large rebel force under Gen. McCulloch and Price coming up from Arkansas. Mr. Britton was obliged to flee from home for safety. His farm near Neosho was well stocked with horses and cattle, and he had several thousand bushels of wheat and corn on hand. This property was all taken from him by the rebel troops and guerrillas, and his fences destroyed. He was a scout and guide for the Union troops operating in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas during the war, and had many narrow escapes from death. He was once captured by Coffee's command, and condemned to be shot as a hostage, but was finally released by a prominent Southern man who was held by the Union troops.

In February, 1868, Comrade Wiley Britton ran off from home and came to Kansas to join Lane and other Free-State men in making Kansas a free State, but after a year in the Territory returned home and attended school at Neosho until Fort Sumner was fired upon, when he came back to Kansas, stopping near Gardner. On hearing of the battle of Carthage, which caused intense excitement among the border, he hastened back home, passing around the rebel pickets after dark, to bring his father and the family to Kansas. He arrived at Fort Scott with his father and eldest brother the last of July, 1861, when the two sons enlisted in the 6th Kan. Cav., then being organized at that place.

The brother who came out with the subject of this sketch was mortally wounded in action at Coon Creek in August, 1862, and a younger brother, who belonged to the 8th Mo. S. M. Cav., was killed in action near Joplin, Mo., while gallantly charging a guerrilla camp with detachment under Lieut. Baxter, in February, 1865.

Comrade Wiley Britton kept a diary of operations during the war, and since the war has written two volumes of "The Civil War on the Border," one of which has been published by Putnam's Sons, New York. The published volume has been favorably reviewed by the leading journals from New York to San Francisco.

For 40 years Comrade Britton has been working for the Republican party and the country, and has done all in his power to contribute to the glory and greatness of both.

Comrade Britton is a warm-hearted, true, Christian gentleman, modest and retiring, and keenly alive to the welfare of his comrades, and their interests would be safe in his keeping. The widow and orphan's appeal would be favorably looked into, and his big heart would go out to them; in the language of the immortal Lincoln: "To him who has borne the battle and to his widow and orphan."

Comrade Britton is Historian of the 6th Kan. Cav. Veteran Association, organized 13 years ago, and his comrades everywhere will be delighted to hear of his appointment by President McKinley to a position that he is so eminently qualified to fill and so justly entitled to.—ROBERT HENDERSON, Captain, Co. G, 6th Kan. Cav., and ex-President 6th Kan. Cav. Veteran Association, Junction City, Kan.

TRIBUNETS.

The American: The Justice leaned over the desk and eyed the prisoner sharply, for he

"I suppose you work," he said at last, sarcastically.

"Everyone," said the prisoner, rarely.